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CONFIDENTIAL

23 JAN 1950

~~MEMORANDUM~~

SUBJECT: Maintenance of Political Morale and Discipline in the Soviet Armed Forces

Political morale and discipline are maintained in the Soviet Armed Forces by the assignment of Communist Party representatives as deputy commanders in all echelons of the services. These political representatives are responsible to the Main Political Directorate of the Armed Forces and are charged with: (1) disciplinary control over Communist Party members in the Armed Forces; (2) political education and surveillance of other military personnel; and (3) morale activities and propaganda. They work closely with KGB informants in the Armed Forces, who maintain their own channels of communication entirely independent of normal military channels. In addition to exercising direct control through these official representatives, the Communist Party has an indirect influence on political morale and discipline because many members of the Armed Forces are also Party members.

SIGNED

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
REAR ADMIRAL, USN
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*Orig & 1 - Adm Pennington. Naval all who use, by RAR 1/23/50
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